



City of Renton
Shoreline Master Program Update
Public Participation Plan



March 2008

Updated October 2008

Introduction

The City of Renton is updating its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) in accordance with the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (SMA) governed by RCW 90.58 and WAC 173-26. It is the purpose of the SMA to manage the shoreline to accommodate all reasonable and appropriate uses consistent with protecting against adverse effects to the public health, the land and its vegetation and wildlife, and the waters of the state and their aquatic life. The act's policy of achieving both shoreline utilization and protection is reflected in the provision that "permitted uses in the shorelines of the state shall be designed and conducted in a manner to minimize, in so far as practical, any resultant damage to the ecology and environment of the shoreline area and the public's use of the water."

Project Overview

Renton has four areas under the jurisdiction of the SMA. These shorelines are: the Cedar River, Lake Washington, Springbrook Creek, and May Creek. Lake Desire, in Renton's potential annexation area is also under the jurisdiction of the SMA. Lake Washington is designated a "shoreline of statewide significance" and is subject to additional policies that recognize and protect the statewide interest over local interest; and provide for preserving the natural character and ecology of the shoreline, and increasing public access and recreational opportunities. Shoreline planning includes the water body as well as adjacent lands. The regulatory provisions of the SMA include the shore lands within 200 ft. of the ordinary high water line or floodway as well as wetlands associated with the water body.

All jurisdictions in Washington State are required to develop, maintain, and periodically update their SMP. Renton first adopted an SMP in 1977, and it has been periodically amended since that time. A major effort to coordinate the SMP with the City's critical area regulations was approved by the City Council in 2005, but at the time of writing, has not been approved by the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE). Update of Renton's SMP will include a new inventory and characterization of shorelines in the City, an assessment of options and public visioning process, the drafting of a new SMP document, and review and final adoption of the SMP document. The SMP document will include new policy language, new regulations, a cumulative impact analysis, and a restoration plan.

Public participation is a key component of this two to three year planning effort. This Public Participation Plan has been created for two purposes. First is to identify potential stakeholder and invite their participation in the

planning process. Second is to guide public participation efforts throughout the process to ensure early and continuous involvement in decision-making. Efforts to ensure public participation will continue to evolve throughout the life of the project.

Project Timeline

	Target Dates
Public Involvement	Begin now, then on-going
Inventory and Characterization	Spring and Summer 2008
Assessment of Options	Autumn 2008 to Spring 2009
Draft Shoreline Master Program	Spring to Autumn 2009
Review and Adoption	Autumn and early Winter 2009

Roles and Responsibilities

The City of Renton is responsible for the update of the SMP in compliance with state rules and guideline. This responsibility includes actively inviting public comment and coordinating with adjacent jurisdictions, affected tribes, and state agencies. The City has accepted a grant from DOE to complete this work, and is responsible for meeting the obligations of the contract for that funding. The primary contact person for the City of Renton is:

Erika Conkling, Senior Planner
Department of Community and Economic Development
1055 S. Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057
(425) 430-6578
shoreline@ci.renton.wa.us

DOE is responsible for providing technical assistance to the City and must approve the City's updated SMP. The primary contact person at DOE is:

Barbara Nightengale
Department of Ecology, NW Regional Office
3190 160th Ave SE
Bellevue, WA 98008
(425) 649-4309
bnig461@ecy.wa.gov

Public Participation Plan

State law requires the City to invite citizens and stakeholders to participate in the SMP update process. Public participation is also very important to the City of Renton as an effective tool to balance competing interests and needs for shoreline use. It is important that information be made available so any interested person can understand the materials and participate. The City will encourage participation in several ways.

Stakeholders

A variety of groups, agencies, and individuals may have interest in the update of Renton's SMP. These stakeholders can be categorized as follows:

- Other Governmental Agencies
 - Adjacent jurisdictions: Kent, Tukwila, Seattle, Newcastle, King County
 - State agencies: DOE, Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development
 - Federal agencies: US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency
 - Tribal government: Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Quasi-governmental Groups
 - Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8: Cedar/Lake Washington watershed, Puget Sound Regional Council
 - WRIA 9: Green/Duwamish watershed
 - Utility Groups: Seattle Public Utilities
- Community Groups and Clubs
 - Recreational Clubs: Maplewood Golf Course, Renton Sailing Club, Renton Rowing Club, Cedar River Boathouse, Recreational Boating Association of Washington, Washington Water Trails Association
 - Neighborhood Associations: Kennydale Neighborhood Association, North Renton Neighborhood Association, South Renton Neighborhood Association, Maplewood Glen Neighborhood Association
- Citizens and Property Owners, specifically shoreline property owners
- Business Groups and Associations
 - Business Organizations: Renton Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Renton Association

- Trade Organizations: Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties, Seattle-King County Association of Realtors
- Businesses on or near the shoreline
- Environmental Organizations and Conservation Groups
 - Local groups: Herons Forever
 - Regional groups: Futurewise, Washington Environmental Council, Washington State Lake Protection Association, Bullitt Foundation, Washington Native Plant Society
 - Local Chapters of National groups: Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Trust for Public Land, Society for Ecological Restoration, Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited

Project Outreach

Initial public outreach will include notifying all stakeholders by mail and inviting them to participate. A survey will be sent with the notice to identify future opportunities for public education, informational meetings, and outreach efforts. Informational notices will be posted in several locations throughout the community to invite users of the City's shorelines to participate. Posted sites will include: Cedar River Trail, Black River Riparian Forest Park, Coulon Park, Kennydale Beach Park, Renton Public Libraries, Renton Community Center, and City Hall. All outreach efforts will be documented by the City and available for public review upon request.

Ongoing outreach will include several measures. Stakeholders who express interest in participating will continue to receive notices and informational mailings from the City. Notices will be posted throughout the community, as above, with information about key deadlines and public meeting dates. Public meeting dates will also run on cable channel 21. Information about the project will appear in RentonNow, a bimonthly newsletter about City government received by most City of Renton households. A special effort will be made to attract interested stakeholders at an SMP update booth at Renton River Days. River Days is a week-long community festival and part of Sea-Fair, which celebrates Renton's heritage and salutes the importance of the Cedar River to the City's lifestyle, culture, and economy.

A series of public meetings will be held to initiate the SMP update. The first of these meetings will be a briefing for the Renton City Council Committee of the Whole. Committee of the Whole and Council meetings are televised live on cable channel 21 within Renton City limits, and shown repeatedly

throughout the week. Additionally, they are telecast live on streaming video at the City of Renton website, and can be reviewed at anytime from the meeting archives, thus making these meetings available to anyone with internet access. Other briefings will be held for the City of Renton Planning Commission, a general meeting for all stakeholders and interested parties, as well as briefings for community groups that request to have one.

At the general meeting for all stakeholders, participants will be presented with major policy provisions of the program together with conceptual options for addressing these provisions. Particular policy issues will include, but are not limited to:

- Achieving no net loss of ecological functions
- Addressing cumulative impacts and fairly allocating the burden of achieving no net loss
- Providing for water dependent uses and water oriented uses
- Increasing public access opportunities
- Providing increased opportunities for recreation
- Providing for bank protection that protects aquatic resources
- Providing for vegetation management that contributes to ecologic functions
- Providing for flood control consistent with ecological and other goals
- Implementing critical area regulations

Participants will be encouraged to register preferences for different approaches to shoreline policies and regulations. Participants will also be provided with an overview and have the opportunity to ask questions regarding the process of developing the inventory and analysis and applying the findings to policies and regulations. Graphic examples and photos will be used to illustrate the issues and alternate measures.

During the regulatory development stage, the City intends to divide the shoreline planning areas into distinct geographical areas for analysis and public input. The areas will be selected based on distinctive patterns of land use and existing urban development, which may necessitate different regulatory approaches. Creating these geographical areas also furthers outreach and public participation goals. It enables the City to focus on the specific needs and input of stakeholders in each area.

Participation Tools

Throughout the process of the SMP update, the City will maintain several channels for communication and public participation. One of the primary tools will be a City webpage dedicated to the project: shoreline.rentonwa.gov. This website will include notices for upcoming public meetings, documents available for review, and other information related to the update. Visitors to the website can sign up to be on the interested parties list, and can also sign up to receive an email each time the webpage is updated. A dedicated email address, shoreline@ci.renton.wa.us, has also been established specifically for questions and comments on this project.

Another tool will be a periodic newsletter sent to all interested parties. The newsletter will feature a status report on the SMP update, and highlight important dates for submitting comments or attending public meetings. At a minimum, this newsletter will be sent twice a year for the duration of the project. In addition, legal notifications, such as notices for public hearing or environmental review will be sent to all required parties, as well as the interested parties list.

Public meetings will provide another opportunity for public participation and comment. The City of Renton Planning Commission will be the primary review body for all of the work accomplished as part of the SMP update. Planning Commission meetings are open to the public, and time is set aside during each meeting for public comment. In addition, the City Council will be briefed on the status of the update at key points in the process. As mentioned above, Council meetings are televised and available for review on the internet. Special public meetings dedicated to the SMP update will also be held at key points throughout the process. These meetings will provide the City with opportunities to educate and inform as well as provide the public with opportunities to comment on the update. Official public hearings will be held near the end of the update process to take public comments about the SMP on the record.

Document Review

Update of the SMP will result in several work products that require review. Some of these products include: Shoreline inventory and characterization, City Shoreline vision, SMP policies, Shoreline and related regulation changes, cumulative impact analysis, and Shoreline restoration plan. It is expected that the City will consult with stakeholders in the development of documents and other work products for the SMP update. In particular, the City hopes to work closely with other governmental agencies (for example: DOE, US Army

Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe) in the drafting stage.

Once drafted, all documents will be available for official review by the public. Comment periods will be clearly specified and advertised through the means identified in this public participation plan. The City will maintain a database of all comments received throughout the SMP update, which will be available for public review upon request.

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process offers additional opportunities to seek public input. The City anticipates integrating SEPA review into the proposal through the Growth Management Act/SEPA integration process. The SEPA review process also will be integrated with cumulative impact analysis. Prior to Planning Commission consideration of the Draft Master Program, the City will provide notice of the SEPA threshold determination which provides the opportunity for additional specific input on environmental impacts of the proposal.

Conclusion

The update of Renton's SMP is a collaborative effort in which the City will engage citizens, businesses, governmental agencies, and other interested groups. The City website, public postings, community events, public meetings, and newsletters will be used to reach out to interested parties and get them involved in the process.